

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of monitoring power outages in a household refrigerating appliance, comprising:  
determining by the household refrigerating appliance of a prior occurrence of a power outage to the appliance after power is restored;  
computing by the household appliance of a duration of the power outage; and  
alerting a user of the duration of the power outage via an integrated electronic display.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the household appliance is a refrigerator or freezer.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising periodically storing a time prior to power outage; and wherein the step of computing includes computing by the household appliance of the duration of the power outage using the time prior to power outage.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of alerting includes displaying the duration of the power outage.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising storing a time prior to the power outage.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising maintaining a current time during the power outage.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method of monitoring power outages in a household refrigerating appliance, comprising:

periodically storing a time prior to a power outage;  
maintaining a current time during the power outage;  
determining by the household refrigerating appliance of a duration of the power outage; and  
alerting a user of the duration of the power outage via an integrated electronic display.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9 further comprising periodically storing a second time prior to a second power outage; maintaining the current time during the second power outage; and determining a second duration associated with the second power outage.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 10 further comprising cumulating the duration of the power outage and the second duration associated with the second power outage to provide a total power outage duration; and alerting the user of the total power outage duration.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A refrigerating appliance, comprising:  
a refrigeration system powered by an external power source;  
an intelligent control operatively connected to the external power source;  
a clock operatively connected to the intelligent control;  
a user interface operatively connected to the intelligent control;  
an integrated electronic display operatively connected to the intelligent control;  
a second power source operatively connected to the clock; and  
the intelligent control adapted for determining a duration of a power outage.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): The refrigeration appliance of claim 13 wherein the user ~~interface includes a~~ integrated electronic display operatively connected to the intelligent control ~~for displaying~~ displays the duration of the power outage.

Claim 15 (Original): The refrigerating appliance of claim 13 further comprising a memory electrically connected to the intelligent control for storing time information.

Claim 16 (Original): The refrigerating appliance of claim 15 wherein the memory is a nonvolatile memory.

Claim 17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Original): The refrigerating appliance of claim 13 wherein the intelligent control is further adapted for determining the duration of the power outage from stored time information and from a current time provided by the clock.